

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 /099 W

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R 291700Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9270

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 1365

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRG, GATT, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: MTN: TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 19289

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL, ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL MINISTER CALLED ON SENIOR MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP FRANCISCI JANUARY 28. (FRANCISCI HAS PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER AND IS RESPONSIBLE WITHIN MFA ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE FOR POLICY PLANNING/COORDINATION OF EC AFFAIRS AND TRADE POLICY.)

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2. IN RESPONSE ECMIN'S PRESENTATION, FRANCISCI NOTED THAT EC MINISTERIAL WILL NOT CONSIDER MTN UNTIL FEBRUARY 10 AND THAT TIMING OF MINISTERIAL AND TNC MEETINGS PERHAPS UNFORTUNATE. NEVERTHELESS, HE EXPECTED THIS TO PRESENT NO INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS SINCE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT BEGIN UNTIL AFTER FEBRUARY 11 TNC MEETING, WHILE EC COMMISSION ALREADY HAS RECEIVED ADEQUATE GUIDANCE FROM COUNCIL ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS. FRANCISCI NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT FRENCH STILL ADAMANT ON HAVING AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE HANDLE ALL ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURE IN MTN.

3. REFERRING TO RECENT GOI INTER-MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF MTN, FRANCISCI SAID THAT MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) HAD WANTED GOI TO PUSH FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL DECISION AT FEBRUARY 10 MINISTERIAL OF STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION MAY REQUIRE CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO TRADE LIBERALIZATION. MFT DISSUADED FROM PURSUING THIS COURSE. FRANCISCI NOTED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, IT IMPERATIVE MAINTAIN MOMENTUM AND THAT ECONOMIC SITUATION WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE MUCH IMPROVED BY TIME MTN REACHED FINAL STAGE.

4. COMMENT: FRANCISCI OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY OF PROCEDURAL ARGUMENTS RE AGRICULTURE BETWEEN EC AND US AT FEBRUARY 11 TNC MEETING, WHICH GOI WOULD PREFER TO AVOID AT THIS TIME IN HOPE THAT FRANCE CAN BE PERSUADED MODIFY ITS POSITION. ITALY HAS NO DESIRE TO FREEZE CAP IN ITS CURRENT FORM. MFT POSITION DESCRIBED PARA (3) ABOVE IS ONE WHICH EMBOFFS HAVE PREVIOUSLY ENCOUNTERED AND EMPHASITICALLY REFUTED. VOLPE

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